

USDI/NPS NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form

A New Standard For Living: Lustron Houses in Indiana

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

☒ New Submission ☐ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

A New Standard For Living: Lustron Houses in Indiana

B. Associated Historic Contexts

The Lustron House in Indiana, 1948-1950.

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Jill Downs, Jim Morrow, and Christopher Baas

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city or town Fort Wayne state IN zip code 46805

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.  
(☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

### A New Standard For Living: Lustron Houses in Indiana

#### Introduction

Between the years of 1948 and 1950, the Lustron Corporation of Columbus, Ohio, produced porcelain-enameled steel, prefabricated houses in response to the post-World War II housing shortage in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Billed as “The House America Has Been Waiting For” and “Lustron: A New Standard For Living” in advertising campaigns, the Lustron house promised to revolutionize the housing industry through the application of mass production techniques while providing an economical and modern housing alternative to new families in search of homeownership.<sup>2</sup> Despite being heavily funded by the federal government, inadequate start-up cost estimates, production and construction problems, and design deficiencies eventually resulted in the failure of the Lustron Corporation after producing just 2,680 houses.<sup>3</sup>

With Indiana being in close proximity to the Lustron plant in Ohio, it’s no surprise that a number of Lustron homes were built throughout the state. Of the approximately 1,500 remaining Lustrons, approximately 180 are in Indiana. This multiple property document describes the historic context of these resources, the significance of the property type, and the requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *The Lustron Home: The History of a Postwar Prefabricated Housing Experiment* by Thomas T. Feters and *Suburban Steel: The Magnificent Failure of the Lustron Corporation, 1945-1951* by Douglas Knerr have previously documented a thorough history of Lustron homes, and are considered to be the authorities on the subject throughout this document.<sup>4</sup>

#### Precedents of Prefabrication

The utilization of prefabricated houses first occurred many years ahead of the Lustron. The first use of prefabricated structures, for housing and even churches, dates back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, although these were usually considered to be temporary. In 1889, George F. Barber pioneered pre-cut, mail order houses, and in 1904, the Aladdin Company, of Bay City Michigan, was the first to mass-market a complete home. Other mail-order house companies soon followed such as Sears, Roebuck & Company and Montgomery Ward.<sup>5</sup>

Sears became the largest in the prefabricated industry posting sales of nearly 50,000 homes by 1930. They are scattered across the country, but the largest concentrations are in the Northeast and Midwest United States. In 1939, Sears proclaimed to have provided a home for approximately half a million people. The process was simple: design the house plans, market the plans through the Sears catalog and at Sears sales offices, provide financing plans to prospective buyers, provide a detailed construction manual for the building contractor, and deliver the building materials (totaling approximately 30,000 separate parts not including nails or screws) via rail to the construction site. The blueprints for each house even conveniently listed the materials required for each design stage and indicated where and when to use each piece of the supplied pre-cut lumber. A paint catalog was also provided for choosing colors for the body, trim, and window sashes of the house.<sup>6</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> Thomas T. Feters, *The Lustron Home: The History of a Postwar Prefabricated Housing Experiment* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2002), 1, 4.

<sup>2</sup> Douglas Knerr, *Suburban Steel: The Magnificent Failure of the Lustron Corporation, 1945-1951* (Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University Press, 2004), 1-2; *The Lustron Home*, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons> (accessed November 7, 2008).

<sup>3</sup> H. Ward Jandl, John A. Burns, and Michael J. Auer, *Yesterday's Houses of Tomorrow: Innovative American Homes, 1850 to 1950* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1991) 188-189, 193, 195, 197, 199; and Feters, 97, 149.

<sup>4</sup> *The Lustron Home*, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/index.php> (accessed January 22, 2009).

<sup>5</sup> Feters, 4-5

<sup>6</sup> Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company* (New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986), 19-20, 29, 30.

Lustron Corporation would eventually follow this lead for building its homes.

### **Carl Strandlund and Chicago Vitreous**

Browsing through republished mail order catalogs such as Sears, Bennett's and Loizeaux, shows houses primarily constructed of wood with the occasional use of concrete block or brick. The use of steel as a building material gained momentum in the 1920s for constructing small commercial buildings and storage sheds, an example being the White Castle Hamburger System created in 1928 by L.W. Ray that utilized a steel frame with porcelain enameled steel panels forming interior and exterior walls. In 1933, two steel-clad model houses were showcased at the Century of Progress Exposition that "featured walls constructed of enameled metal panels that were bolted or screwed together".<sup>7</sup>

Porcelain enamel on metal developed in German and Austria in the mid-1800s and resulted in a durable surface that was easy to clean. It then became popular for use on signs, appliances, and bathroom and kitchen fixtures.<sup>8</sup>

In 1919, the Chicago Vitreous Enamel Products Company (Chicago Vit) began to produce steel enamelware for companies that made household appliances, and then established Lusterlite Laboratories in 1932 to help market the use of porcelain enameled steel panels for construction purposes while developing a production line to manufacture them. Including White Castle, other companies such as Standard Oil of Indiana and Socony Mobil began using these panels, hung on a steel framing structure, for the construction of their commercial facilities. This partnering with gas station architecture led to the development of efficient and uniform manufacturing of the product, and to the creation in 1937 of a subsidiary of Chicago Vit called the Porcelain Products Company. The Lustron name, derived from "luster on steel," was trademarked under this company in October of that year. The ensuing World War II years, though, caused Chicago Vit to halt the production of the panels in lieu of utilizing the steel for other wartime needs.<sup>9</sup>

In 1942, Chicago Vit hired Carl G. Strandlund to supervise its wartime efforts. Strandlund was born in Sweden in 1888, and at age four, immigrated with his family to Moline, Illinois. After high school and studying engineering through correspondence courses, Strandlund worked from 1923 to 1935 as a production engineer for the Minneapolis Moline Power Implement Company. During this time, he developed over 150 patents. While later working as the engineering and development director for the Oliver Farm Equipment Company, he concentrated on production efficiency and supplier management systems which propelled him to the company presidency in 1937, a tenure during which sales increased from \$20 million to \$120 million. He then gained experience dealing with the needs associated with World War II when he worked for B.F. Goodrich to design improved tank treads.

One of Strandlund's first successes working at Chicago Vit was a production innovation for armor plating tanks that "was hailed as one of the most outstanding contributions to war production technology in the Chicago production district" and for which Chicago Vit received the Army-Navy "E" award for excellence in war production. This got Strandlund promoted to vice-president and general manager of the company. In 1945, Strandlund earned another patent that would be integral to the commercial production of the Lustron house when he developed an interlocking method for joining enameled steel panels which resulted in less assembly time at the construction site.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Stevenson and Jandl, 29, 44-345; *Loizeaux's Plan Book No. 7*, (Plainfield, NJ and Elizabeth, NJ: J.D. Loizeaux Lumber Company and Loizeaux Builders Supply Co., 1927; reprint Mineola, NY: The Athenaeum of Philadelphia/Dover Publications, Inc., 1992), 17-176; *Bennett Homes: Better-Built Ready Cut, Catalog No. 18*, (North Tonawanda, NY: Ray H. Bennett Lumber Co., Inc., 1920; reprint Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1993), 10-67; Fetters, 7; and Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 183.

<sup>8</sup> The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/lustron-history> (accessed November 12, 2008).

<sup>9</sup> Knerr, 72, 74-75; and Fetters, 3, 4, 11.

<sup>10</sup> Knerr, 70-72, 76.

**Post-War Demand for Housing and Federal Response**

Although the federal government did not need as much steel for defense purposes once the war was over, it still controlled its distribution to private industry. Strandlund and Chicago Vit wanted to again produce its steel panel product for gas stations, but needed to request a supply of the material from the government. In a meeting in June 1946 with Civilian Production Administration (CPA) officials, Strandlund made his request for the steel, but was turned down because commercial buildings were not deemed to be a good use of steel at the time according to Wilson Wyatt, a President Truman appointee who headed the National Housing Administration (NHA). During his meeting with the CPA, however, Strandlund apparently mentioned that Chicago Vit's enameled-steel panels could be used to build prefabricated houses, so Strandlund was then encouraged to meet with the NHA.<sup>11</sup>

Post-World War II America was facing a housing shortage. Although the number of "permanent dwelling units" started in the country had grown steadily from 126,000 in 1934 to 706,100 in 1941, the numbers dropped dramatically during the war years from just 356,000 in 1942 to a low of 141,800 in 1944. Population estimates from the 1930's and 1940's showed a continued increase in numbers to a peak of 134,245,000 in 1943 with only a slight drop in years 1944 (132,885,000) and 1945 (132,481,000). Additionally, census data from 1940 showed 18 percent of the nation's existing housing to be in need of major repair, 31 percent had no running water, 39 percent had no bathtub or shower, and 35 percent had no flush toilet. Nine percent of occupied housing units had 1.51 or more persons per room which was defined as being overcrowded.<sup>12</sup>

It had been estimated that about 2.9 million married veterans would be in need of housing by the end of 1946. During 1945 and 1946, approximately 10 million veterans were discharged from the military, many of whom initially lived with relatives or in non-residential structures such as garages, boxcars, and chicken coops. It had become an expectation by returning veterans that the government would help fulfill, what had been widely-espoused since the 1920s, the dream of home ownership and particularly in a new house. The GI Bill of Rights of 1944 had provided for interest-free mortgages to veterans, and in December of 1945, President Truman embarked on creating an emergency housing production program. In early 1946, Wilson Wyatt presented a program, to be enacted by Congress in May 1946 as the Veterans' Emergency Housing Act, where he proposed building 2.7 million low-and moderate-cost houses nationwide by the end of 1947. Of these, there were to be 250,000 prefabricated houses built in 1946 and an additional 600,000 built in 1947. Figures estimating housing needs by state could not be found.<sup>13</sup>

R. Harold Denton was the head of the Materials and Equipment Development Division of the NHA and had come to believe "that factory-produced housing could modernize the hidebound and inefficient residential construction industry" and that this, in turn, would result in a well-made, affordable product. Nationwide in 1940, there were only 30 firms regularly producing prefabricated homes, but this number grew to over 100 by 1943. The National Homes Corporation, with plants in nine states including its home state of Indiana, began producing prefabricated homes in 1940, and could erect a complete structure in 2-5 weeks. A February 1946 article in *Time* reported on several prefabricating companies working on increasing production goals to meet

<sup>11</sup> Knerr, 76; and Fetters, 35.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957; a statistical abstract supplement*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1960), 393; Intercensal Estimates of the Total Resident Population of States: 1930 to 1939, <http://www.census.gov/popest/archives/1980s/st3039ts.txt> (accessed February 16, 2010); Intercensal Estimates of the Total Resident Population of States: 1940 to 1949, <http://www.census.gov/popest/archives/1980s/st4049ts.txt> (accessed February 16, 2010); and F. John Devaney, *Tracking the American Dream: 50 Years of Housing History from the Census Bureau: 1940 to 1990* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census, 1994), 35.

<sup>13</sup> The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/lustron-history/post-war-housing-crisis> (accessed February 17, 2010); Knerr, 65, 66, 68; and Burnham Kelly, *The Prefabrication of Houses: A Study by the Albert Farwell Meis Foundation of the Prefabrication Industry in the United States* (New York, NY: The Technology Press of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1951), 68, 69.

the needs of the housing shortage. These companies were Gunnison Homes, Inc. of New Albany, Indiana (planned to produce a complete house every 25 minutes); Precision-Built Homes Corporation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; American Houses, Inc. (planned to produce 7,000 houses per year); Anchorage Homes, Inc. in Westfield, Massachusetts (planned to produce 16 houses per day); and Johnson Quality Homes in Brooklyn, New York (planned to produce 5,000 units in 1946). Also in 1946, Levitt and Sons began construction on what would become the 17,447-home Levittown on Long Island, New York. However, by late summer 1946, only 600,000 total housing units had been started nationwide. Figures indicating how many of these were prefabricated and which companies actually did the building could not be found.<sup>14</sup>

In August of 1946, Strandlund met with Denton to propose building a new kind of house. It was steel-framed and was covered with porcelain enamel on the exterior and interior – including the roofing shingles. Strandlund succeeded in impressing Denton and other NHA engineers with his product, particularly its design and ability to be mass-produced. He left the meeting knowing what he had to do next.<sup>15</sup>

Strandlund quickly got to work. After persuading Chicago Vit owners to provide \$100,000 for the development of detailed design, engineering, manufacturing and marketing plans, the next thing Strandlund did was to assemble a few architects and stylists to create the working plans for the prototype Lustron house called the “Esquire.” An actual model was constructed in unincorporated Hinsdale, Illinois.<sup>16</sup> Strandlund then returned to Washington with the plans and met with the CPA, Wilson Wyatt, and others with the NHA in September and October of 1946 when he proposed producing at least 30,000 houses by the end of 1947 and an estimated 400 houses per day beginning in January of 1948, but Strandlund had difficulty convincing the federal government to loan the company \$52 million and to help finance a production facility to get started. Although Wyatt supported Strandlund, he couldn’t persuade the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) and President Truman that the loan was worthwhile and eventually resigned his position with the NHA over the disagreement.

### **The Lustron Corporation**

Wyatt’s successor, Frank R. Creedon, continued the Lustron cause and worked with the War Assets Administration (WAA) to allow the lease of the Curtiss-Wright airplane plant in Columbus, Ohio, for Lustron production for \$428,000 a year. On January 17, 1947, after Chicago Vit had designated its subsidiary called Porcelain Products Company to market the Lustron product, Strandlund applied for a drastically reduced loan request of just \$12.5 million under the subsidiary’s name. The loan was conditionally approved on January 31, 1947 for 2 years at four percent interest provided the parent company, Chicago Vit, assumed the liability.

Having a significantly reduced budget at this point, Strandlund projected being able to build 100 houses per day for \$7,000 each, and for production to begin in nine months. However, just before the Emergency Housing Act of 1947 was due to expire on June 30, 1947, Congress authorized the RFC to loan up to \$50 million for prefabricated housing, \$15.5 million of which was to go to the Porcelain Products Company. Chicago Vit, which was to assume limited liability for the loan, decided the provisions were too risky and declined the offer. Strandlund then created the Lustron Corporation on October 31, 1947 to receive the loan, subsequently resigned from Chicago Vit, and bought the Lustron trademark along with the equipment needed to produce the houses.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Knerr, 62, 69, 76-77; Harvard Business School Baker Library Historical Collections, Lehman Brothers Collection, “National Homes Corporation,” [http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/lehman/chrono.html?company=national\\_homes\\_corporation](http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/lehman/chrono.html?company=national_homes_corporation) (accessed February 17, 2010); “Housing: Factory-Built Solution?,” *Time*, February 11, 1946, <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,854164,00.html> (accessed February 17, 2010); and Robert Gerhart Jr., “Levittown: A Case Study of Modern Era Homebuilding,” *Construction History Society of America*, no. 4 (July 2008), [http://www.constructionhistorysociety.org/publications\\_files/July%20News-small.pdf](http://www.constructionhistorysociety.org/publications_files/July%20News-small.pdf) (accessed February 17, 2010).

<sup>15</sup> Knerr, 77; Fetters, 16-17.

<sup>16</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 185; Knerr, 77; and Fetters, 18.

<sup>17</sup> Knerr, 80; and Fetters, 31-37.

Modeling the Lustron operations after the automobile industry, Strandlund quickly hired workers, many of whom had once worked for auto manufacturers, to get Lustron production up and running. The company hailed its product as revolutionary, creating slogans such as "The House America Has Been Waiting For" and "Lustron: A New Standard For Living." The marketing strategy included advertising nationwide through newspapers and major magazines such as *Time*, *Life*, *McCall's*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Architectural Forum*, and building demonstration homes in nearly 100 cities, including Milwaukee, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Detroit, Boston, Des Moines, Columbus (OH), and even midtown Manhattan, for the public to view. The level of interest in the homes reportedly was very high due primarily to built-in features, such as a china cabinet/room divider and bookcases, pocket doors, and its low maintenance aspect including ease of cleaning and never needing to be repainted. It was also fire-resistant, would never need a new roof, and kept out vermin and insects.

To facilitate sales, Lustron established franchises with qualified builder-dealers, focusing initially in the Northeast and Great Lakes states, resulting in approximately 234 in 35 states by the end of 1949. In this regard, potential customers could go directly to a dealer to shop for a Lustron. However, because of how Lustron structured the dealer relationships, dealers were faced with needing between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in start up costs because they were required to purchase each lot, pour the concrete foundation, and run the new utilities. Adding to the problem, prospective homeowners couldn't get loans approved fast enough, so turn over of houses was slow. Lustron eventually formed a special department aimed at assisting both the dealer and the buyer in finding financing.<sup>18</sup>

It wasn't until December of 1948, over a year after getting the loan to begin production, that the Lustron manufacturing process was fine-tuned, and it took \$12,500,000 worth of equipment to get to that point. These problems and delays increased the cost of a Lustron house from \$7,000 to between \$9,000 and \$10,000, depending upon the location, and effectively put the price out of the range of first-time homebuyers. Already finding itself in need of more money, the Lustron Corporation secured additional loans from the RFC for \$10 million in 1948 and \$7 million in early 1949.

Standlund had projected the plant could produce 100 houses per day, but even at its best, the plant produced only 26 per day, and 50 per day were needed just to break even. The first Lustron house for public sale, bound for a site in Webster Groves, Missouri, didn't leave the plant until early January 1949.<sup>19</sup> Beginning in the summer of that year, some of the same magazines that had earlier helped to market the Lustron house began publishing articles that were critical of the company. Noting the variety of production problems the company had, it also was reported that several vice-presidents had left Lustron in the previous two years. At this same time, however, the RFC announced that Lustron was spending \$1 million per month to operate then, over the span of just a few months, subsequently gave additional loans that brought the total given to the company to \$37,500,000.<sup>20</sup>

In late 1949, the Lustron Corporation hired Boston architect Carl Koch, an expert in fabricated housing, to create a new Lustron design to be marketed the following year. Koch noted a number of inefficiencies at the Lustron plant that included a huge, expensive press to make the unique-size bathtubs for each Lustron house,

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<sup>18</sup> Fetters, 66, 88, 97; Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 189-192; Knerr, 2, 104, 107, 111, 130, 137; and <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons> (accessed November 7, 2008). Fetters and Knerr use different terminology for the title of the special department for helping with financing. Fetters (88) uses both "Lustron Mortgage Company" and "Lustron Mortgage Corporation," while Knerr (137) uses "Finance Department."

<sup>19</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 192-193; and Fetters, 66. Fetters (74-77) notes that location was a major variable in pricing; shipping a house farther away from the Columbus plant was more expensive than shipping nearer to the plant. Also contributing to differing total house costs included lot prices, local labor costs, and local building codes which varied from place to place.

<sup>20</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 198; and Fetters, 85 - 88.

making different size panels for exterior and interior use, and making windows of various sizes. Based upon Koch's new design, he made several recommendations, such as reducing the few thousand component parts required for assembly to just thirty-seven, in an effort to streamline the manufacturing process and to save on materials. However, it was too little too late, and Koch's Lustron was never built.<sup>21</sup> In February 1950, after much questioning by Congress as to the wisdom of giving so much and getting so little in return, the RFC filed foreclosure action against Lustron.<sup>22</sup>

The last Lustron house was shipped from the plant on June 6, 1950. The 2,680 houses produced during the brief existence of the Lustron Corporation were built primarily in the eastern two-thirds of the United States (it was too expensive to ship materials by rail west of the Rockies), but units were also constructed in the Territory of Alaska (2), and in Venezuela (38).<sup>23</sup>

### **The Lustron Design and Construction**

The Lustron "Esquire" prototype model was designed by Roy Blass and Morris H. Beckman, an MIT graduate who had been a chief draftsman at the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, until partnering with Blass. The two already had experience designing commercial buildings for Chicago Vit and, taking this into consideration, settled on a ranch-style house that was similar in design to their previous commercial projects. They had noted that the ranch house style had gained recent popularity for modern house construction, and was easily adaptable to various geographic locations. Their design would also be cost-effective to produce. The ensuing 31-by-35 foot house was a 1,025 square foot, one-story, gabled structure that was rectangular in plan with a low-pitched roof and recessed front porch entrance.

The house had two bedrooms, a living room, a dinette, a utility room, four large picture windows (the front window was a three-piece bay), radiant heating panels on the ceiling, and built-in features that included a china cabinet/room divider, living room bookcases, a master bedroom vanity, and a combination automatic dishwasher/washing machine (only manufactured for Lustron homes). With the exception of the asphalt tile flooring and aluminum casement windows, every surface of the home was made of porcelain enamel on steel including the roof which consisted of a series of overlapping, steel shingles.<sup>24</sup>

Knerr further explains the construction:

Structurally, the house consisted of exterior and interior enameled-steel panels bolted to a steel skeleton and fixed to a concrete slab foundation. Wall framing was accomplished by joining exterior and interior metal studs with spacer plates, which provided a thermal break for insulation. Diagonal support braces tied the system together. The exterior contained twenty wall framing sections and ten corner assemblies. The trusses placed at four-foot intervals formed the roof structure. The exterior panels measured two feet square, while interior panels measured two feet wide and ran from the floor to the ceiling, except for two-foot-square panels in the bathroom and kitchen...four-foot-square ceiling panels completed the interior.<sup>25</sup>

The innovative radiant heating system worked by combining the physics of a forced-air furnace and a plenum

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<sup>21</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 196-198; and Fetters, 83.

<sup>22</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 198-199; and Fetters, 85-88.

<sup>23</sup> Fetters, 70, 83, 97.

<sup>24</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 185, 194; Knerr, 78-80, 103; Fetters, 20, 70; and The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/what-model-is-it/esquire> (accessed January 16, 2009). Sources differ on the name and manufacturer of the dishwasher/washing machine. Fetters (70) states that it was called the "Thor," but Knerr (79) states that it was called the "Automagic" and was made by the Thor Corporation. Jandl, Burns, and Auer (194) claim that it was made by the Hurley Company.

<sup>25</sup> Knerr, 79-80.



between the roof trusses and the ceiling – the furnace would heat the plenum and the heat would radiate through the plenum and then through the ceiling panels to the rooms below. One-and-a-half inches of insulation backed each exterior panel, four inches of insulation was provided above the false ceiling over the ceiling panels,<sup>26</sup> and a plastic strip applied between the steel panels acted as a gasket to provide an airtight seal.<sup>27</sup>

Outside the Esquire, Lustron sought to complete the overall picture of how easily its modern houses could blend into traditional neighborhoods by utilizing extensive landscaping which included a privet hedge along the front, and other plantings around the property that included strategic placement of mountain laurels, cherry trees, lilac bushes, willow trees, and English ivy. The backyard featured a bluestone terrace. Lustron eventually created the “Lustron Planning Guide” to provide ideas for properly incorporating its houses into particular settings.<sup>28</sup>

Although sized and designed similarly to the prototype Esquire, the first Lustron model available for public sale was known as the “Westchester.” It initially came in a 2-bedroom version, and then a slightly larger 3-bedroom version. Each Westchester model could be upgraded to a “Deluxe” edition which included the bedroom vanity, the china cabinet/room divider, a bay window, and floor tile. The combination dishwasher/washing machine was available for all Westchester models, but buyers had the option to save \$215 by having a double sink installed instead. Lustron later offered additional options to the Westchester including matching garages, breezeways, patios, carports, or screened porches. It is interesting to note that the garage, although faced with Lustron panels, was built using wood framing and not the steel framing used to build the house. The 2-bedroom Deluxe model was Lustron’s biggest seller, although it is not known how many of this model were produced. However, 111 of the 3-bedroom Deluxe Westchester have been found to exist.<sup>29</sup>

Late in 1949, Lustron began building a smaller, less expensive house called the “Newport” that also came in 2 and 3-bedroom models. Most distinctively, the Newport differed from the Westchester in that rather than having a recessed front entrance, the front door was now on a gable end of the house. Where the front door had been on the Westchester, there now was a large bay window. Inside, the radiant heating was replaced by a standard forced-air venting and ducting system. Only twenty-four of the 2-bedroom model have been found to exist. Lustron also developed another 2 and 3-bedroom model called the “Meadowbrook,” but actual construction of this model must have been scarce, as Fetters’ nationwide search for Lustrons found none in existence.<sup>30</sup>

The process of manufacturing a Lustron house worked like this: moving by conveyor at the factory, rolls of steel or steel bar stock were “sliced, punched, stamped, or otherwise bashed; welded, riveted, bolted...or sprayed and baked – finally issuing at the other end as packages of 3,000 component parts.”<sup>31</sup> One Lustron house required over 1,000 porcelain enameled pieces, comprising 7,000 square feet of surface area, and over 200 of them had a different shape and color. All of the house parts weighed in at 35,000 pounds and were shipped to the job site on one specially-designed, 35-foot tandem trailer. Included was a highly detailed manual for how to erect the house.<sup>32</sup> Thus, the Lustron company built upon the precedents of the pre-fabricated housing industry.

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<sup>26</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 194; Knerr, 80; and Fetters, 21.

<sup>27</sup> Fetters, 69.

<sup>28</sup> Knerr, 105, 107, 126.

<sup>29</sup> Fetters, 67, 69-71, 153; Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 195; The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/what-model-is-it/westchester> (accessed January 16, 2009), and Thomas Fetters, e-mail message to Jill Downs, February 27, 2009.

<sup>30</sup> Fetters, 73; and Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 195; and The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/what-model-is-it/newport> (accessed January 16, 2009).

<sup>31</sup> Carl Koch and Andy Lewis, *At Home With Tomorrow* (New York, NY: Rinehart & Company, Inc, 1958) 111-112.

<sup>32</sup> Fetters, 62-65; Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 191.

Once the materials were at the site, Lustron-trained crews constructed the house on the concrete foundation poured by the Lustron builder-dealer. First, the plumbing unit framework had to be put in place. Next in line were the walls and roof trusses, followed by the exterior panels and the roof. Last to be installed were the interior panels, the built-in pieces, and the mechanical equipment. Each house was supposed to take 150 man-hours or fewer to complete. However, the first few houses took closer to 1,000 man-hours to construct and, with experience, the time was whittled down to 350 man-hours. This was, however, still a significant time savings over traditional housing construction.<sup>33</sup>

### **Lustrons in Indiana**

For the purposes of identifying Lustrons in Indiana, four different sources that had previously compiled information related to this issue were found and compared. These sources included the Fetters book, The Lustron Home and Lustron Registry websites, and a field check survey conducted in 2004 and 2005 by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. No search was conducted for this project to validate the presence of the Lustrons noted by the four sources. Although the merged list from the sources appears to show that there are 194 extant Lustrons in Indiana, a closer review of the information suggests that there are likely duplicate listings, as indicated by somewhat similar address numbers or differing, but neighboring, town names. There is also a discrepancy among the sources as to the demolition or moving of Lustrons in Beverly Shores.<sup>34</sup>

Considering the above assumption, it is estimated that approximately 187 Lustrons were built in Indiana, about 180 of which are still standing. It is known that, according to Lustron shipping records, 142 houses had been shipped to locations in Indiana by December 31, 1949. After this date, a total of 710 more houses were shipped around the country before production stopped.<sup>35</sup>

Fewer than half of Indiana's counties (41 of 93) have Lustrons. Since the houses were shipped by trailer, it is no surprise that their distribution is mostly centered near the state's major roads and population centers. For instance, the counties of Lake, Marion, Porter, Vigo, and Vanderburgh contain about a third of all the state's Lustron houses. They are located primarily in the cities of Hammond, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and Evansville. A second grouping of counties, consisting of Bartholomew, St. Joseph, Allen, Delaware, Madison, Wayne, and Monroe, contain between six and ten Lustrons each, and account for about another third of the Indiana's Lustrons. Twenty-six counties contain only one or two Lustrons each.

The majority of Lustron models built in Indiana were the 2-bedroom, Westchester Deluxe, which is not surprising since this was the best-selling model for the company. Of the 111, 3-bedroom Westchester Deluxe models known to exist across the country, nine of them are in Indiana according to the merged listings for the state. One 2-bedroom Newport model is located in Michigan City.

Two Indiana Lustron homes are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Norris and Harriet Coombs House, located at 411 Bowser Avenue in Chesterton, is a 3-bedroom, Westchester Deluxe model complete with a Lustron garage. Built in 1950, it was manufactured near the end of Lustron production. It was placed in the NRHP in 1992. Never experiencing any exterior alterations other than a change in paint color, it retains its architectural integrity. The interior remains nearly as it was originally with the exception of a few kitchen and bathroom fixtures that have been replaced and the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system. The original dishwasher/clothes washer was removed, but a reconditioned

<sup>33</sup> Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 195; Koch, 114; and Fetters, 65. Fetters states that trained crews could assemble a house in three days.

<sup>34</sup> Fetters, 163-164; The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/lounge/locator/lustron-locator> (accessed November 5, 2008), Lustron Registry, <http://www.lustronregistry.org/HTML/states/Indiana.htm> (accessed September 26, 2008), and file "Lustron Surveys," Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (state headquarters), Indianapolis, IN.

<sup>35</sup> Fetters, 141.

model was found and installed in its place. Interior cosmetic changes, such as paint colors and flooring, have also occurred over the years.<sup>36</sup>

The Roy and Iris Corbin House, located at 1728 N. Leland Avenue in Indianapolis, was listed in the NRHP in 1997. Built in 1949, it is a 2-bedroom, Westchester Deluxe model. It also retains a high degree of integrity including original exterior and interior colors as well as the plenum heating system. Only minor changes, such as the removal of the bathroom sink and storage cabinet, new flooring, and the addition of central air conditioning, have occurred to the house. The dishwasher/clothes washer was also removed.<sup>37</sup>

## F. Associated Property Types

### Description

The Lustron Corporation of Columbus, Ohio, produced metal, prefabricated houses utilizing porcelain-enameled steel panels as the primary building components. Based upon a ranch-style house design, the basic Lustron was a one-story, gabled structure that was square or rectangular in plan with a low-pitched roof. Lustron homes, built on concrete slab foundations, were constructed using two-foot square, porcelain-enameled steel panels connected to metal framing members to create the exterior facades. The same size panels, also connected to the framing, were used to create the interior walls for the bathroom and kitchen, while the remaining walls featured vertical panels, placed from floor to ceiling, measuring two feet wide. The ceiling was covered using four-foot square panels.

With the exception of the aluminum windows and asphalt tile flooring, porcelain-enameled steel was utilized for practically every other surface, including the roof shingles, gable ends, soffits, window trim, interior pocket doors, and built-in features.

Each house produced at the Lustron factory was given a sequential 5-digit serial number, indicating its order of production. The number was then stamped onto a metal plate which was attached to the rear wall of the home's utility room.

Three different Lustron models were made available for sale to the public:

### Westchester

The 2-bedroom version had 1,085 square feet of living space and measured 31-by-35 feet. When viewed from the street, it was identified by a notched out, 6-by-12 foot porch area at the entryway on the front left corner of the house with the door placed on the side. The dining room was also on this side of the house and featured a three-part window comprised of a fixed glass pane flanked by two casement windows consisting of four vertically-stacked panes. Facing the front of the house, the living room area also had an identical three-part window, as did the front bedroom located to the right. In the earlier Westchester models, the side windows of each bedroom had "pairs of small slit windows set high on the wall." Later versions had a small, single window or a larger, single window. On the back of the house, another three-part window was used for the second bedroom, the kitchen had paired, three-pane casement windows, and the bathroom had a single three-pane casement window. Also located on the back of the house was the door to the utility room. All windows were made of aluminum, and were left in their natural finish.

The 3-bedroom Westchester had 1,209 square feet and measured 31-by-39 feet. Differing from the 2-bedroom

<sup>36</sup> Beverly Overmyer, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, "Coombs, Norris and Harriet, Lustron House" (Valparaiso, IN: 1992, photocopied), section 7, 1-4.

<sup>37</sup> Raymond M. Featherstone, Jr., National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, "Corbin, Roy and Iris, Lustron House" (Indianapolis, IN: 1997, photocopied), section 7, 1-3.

model, it lacked the porch area, although the entrance was protected by a canopy. Window styles on the main façade varied, with some models showing the same two, large windows as the 2-bedroom version with the third bedroom, attached to the right of the first bedroom, having a small window placed high on the wall. Other models reversed the front windows for the first and third bedrooms. The side bedroom windows varied over production just as they had for the 2-bedroom model.

“Deluxe” versions of each Westchester model included the bedroom vanity, the china cabinet/room divider, asphalt floor tile, and a bay window for the living room. Westchester models without these features were called “Standard.” All models included the combination dishwasher/washing machine, although buyers could substitute a double sink if they preferred. Deluxe model numbers were 02 or 03 and Standard models were 021 and 031 where the “2” or “3” corresponded to the number of bedrooms in the house.

Lustron provided four possible exterior color choices called surf blue, dove gray, maize yellow, and desert tan. The trim color was eggshell white and the roofing tiles were dark gray. Interior color choices were kept to light, neutral shades of gray, blue, yellow, and pink. It was also possible to add other Lustron options such as a matching garage, breezeway, patio, carport, or screened porch.

Throughout the interior, steel pocket doors were used rather than traditional swinging doors. The kitchen featured a Lustron-manufactured sink, steel cabinets with sliding door panels, clothes dryer, and an optional garbage disposal unit, and the bathroom came with the Lustron-manufactured bathtub, toilet, toilet paper holder, sink, illuminated mirrored medicine cabinet, towel bar, robe hook, combination soap dish/grab bar over the tub, drinking glass holder, and shower curtain rod. To add architectural interest, the pocket doors and panels comprising many of the built-in features were sculpted with vertical and horizontal lines.<sup>38</sup>

### Newport

This model also came in two different sizes. The 2-bedroom version (model 023) measured just 23-by-31 feet and had 713 square feet of living space while the 3-bedroom version (model 033) measured 31-by-31 feet and had 961 square feet of living space. Most distinctively, the Newport design differed from the Westchester in that the front door was now on a gable end of the house rather than on a recessed front entrance. Where the front door had been on the Westchester, there now was a large window. Each side of the house had only two windows. This model did not come equipped with the dishwasher/washing machine and built-in vanity, bookcase, and china cabinet pass-through. Also, the radiant heating used in the Westchester was replaced by a standard forced-air venting and ducting system.

### Meadowbrook

The 2-bedroom version (model 022) measured 25-by-31 feet and had 775 square feet of living space while the 3-bedroom version (model 032) measured 33-by-31 feet and had 1,023 square feet of living space. It was essentially the same as the Newport model, just two feet longer.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Fetters, 67, 69-71, 153; The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/help-for-lustrons/guidelines-for-lustron-repair-and-maintenance/repair-and-maintenance-in-action/how-to-find-your-serial-number> (accessed March 2, 2009); <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/what-model-is-it/westchester> (accessed January 16, 2009); The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/the-lustron-system/windows-2> (accessed January 16, 2009); The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/the-lustron-system/panels-and-color-schemes> (accessed March 2, 2009); Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 195; and *Porcelain Enameled All-Steel Streamlined Historic Home* pamphlet. Jandl, Burns, and Auer (191) reported that the exterior color choices also included pink, blue-green, green, and white. The information at <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/the-lustron-system/panels-and-color-schemes> stated that while additional colors were promoted in some Lustron marketing materials and were used on demonstration models, Lustron eventually standardized with the four widely known colors. In an e-mail message to Jill Downs on February 27, 2009, Fetters said that a brighter blue color, referred to as “Robin’s Egg Blue,” was used on the model houses.

<sup>39</sup> Fetters, 73, 152; Jandl, Burns, and Auer, 195; <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/what-model-is-it/newport> (accessed January 16, 2009); and The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/what-model-is-it/meadowbrook>;

### Garages

Optional for the entire Lustron model line was either a one-and-a-half or a two-and-one-half-car garage (with or without connecting breezeway). The model G-1 garage measured 15-by-23 feet; the G-2 model measured 23-feet square.<sup>40</sup>

### **Statement of Significance for Lustron Houses**

Lustron houses are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for their association with the post-World War II demand for affordable housing. Due to the shortage of suitable, low-cost homes available for returning war veterans and their families, the Federal government funded through loans the Lustron Corporation's effort to supply pre-fabricated homes. While Lustron fell quite short of production goals, it succeeded in providing a product that contributed to the new housing building boom of the era.

Lustron houses are also eligible under Criterion C as examples of innovative house construction and distinctive architectural design. The Lustron Corporation was the first to combine prefabrication methods with porcelain-enameled steel to create a home that could be mass-produced. Building upon their knowledge of using porcelain-enameled steel panels to build gas stations, the Lustron Corporation incorporated these panels into a unique housing style that is easily distinguished from other contemporary houses.

### **Registration Requirements for Lustron Houses**

The Lustron house is defined by a variety of character-defining features. To be eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places, a Lustron house must be a one-story structure in its original location with exterior walls consisting of two-foot square, porcelain-enameled steel panels. Other exterior features that should retain their original porcelain-enameled steel construction include the roof shingles, gable ends, soffits, and window and door trim. The original aluminum windows and metal front and rear doors, including the fluted glass, should be intact. However, original gutters, downspouts and decorative metal attached to the downspouts are not required, and it is acceptable for the original paint color to have been changed, although not covered up with other materials such as vinyl or aluminum siding, brick or stone. Also, attachment of objects such as postal boxes, cable TV equipment, radio antennae, air conditioner window units, and decorative window or door shutters are permitted. Any additions made to a Lustron should be attached to the rear façade and should not obscure or overwhelm the original house. An enclosed entrance is not acceptable.

Inside, the Lustron house must retain its original porcelain-enameled steel panels, but not necessarily with their original paint color. The original floor plan and all original built-in features, such as the china cabinet/room divider, kitchen cabinets with sliding doors, bedroom vanity, bathroom features, and pocket doors, should be intact, while it is acceptable for the mechanical systems and equipment, including the combination dishwasher/washing machine, to have been updated. New flooring over the original asphalt tile floors is acceptable.

For a Lustron house to be considered as contributing to an historic district, certain modifications are acceptable. These include new roofing materials, new doors, and an enclosed porch entrance that is still identifiable as a porch. Exterior additions, such as rooms or fireplace chimneys, should not obscure original character-defining features. A majority of the steel panels must be visible on the front and side facades, and most of the window openings must be retained, especially the Westchester bay window.

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(accessed January 16, 2009). It is somewhat unclear as to which models were available with the dishwasher/washing machine. Fetters (153) reprinted a page from a November 1949 Lustron "Zone and Price List" that noted *all* model prices, including the Newport and Meadowbrook, included the appliance.

<sup>40</sup> Jim Morrow, former Lustron owner, in-person interview by Chris Baas, Summer 2008, Indianapolis, IN.

**G. Geographical Data**

The resources associated with this multiple property document are located within the State of Indiana.

**H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

As was mentioned in the Introduction, the previous thorough documentation of Lustron homes by authors Thomas T. Feters and Douglas Knerr was largely relied upon to develop this multiple property document. Additional information came from the sources listed below in the "Major Bibliographical References" section which includes books, articles, websites, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, and a personal interview. E-mail discussions between Jill Downs and Thomas Feters, a review of Lustron multiple property documents from other states, and two existing Indiana Lustron properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including discussions with their former owners Jim Morrow and Ray Featherstone, provided additional insight and direction.

The major sections of the historic context were organized around the primary themes that became evident from the information, while the property types were arranged in a way that would show the progression of the Lustron designs over time. In deriving the requirements for registration, the current condition of existing Lustron houses in Indiana was studied.

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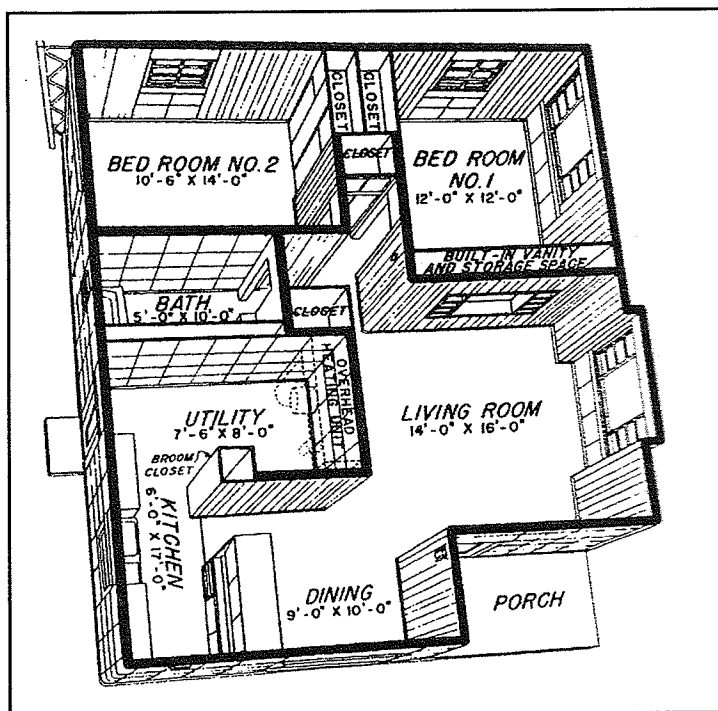
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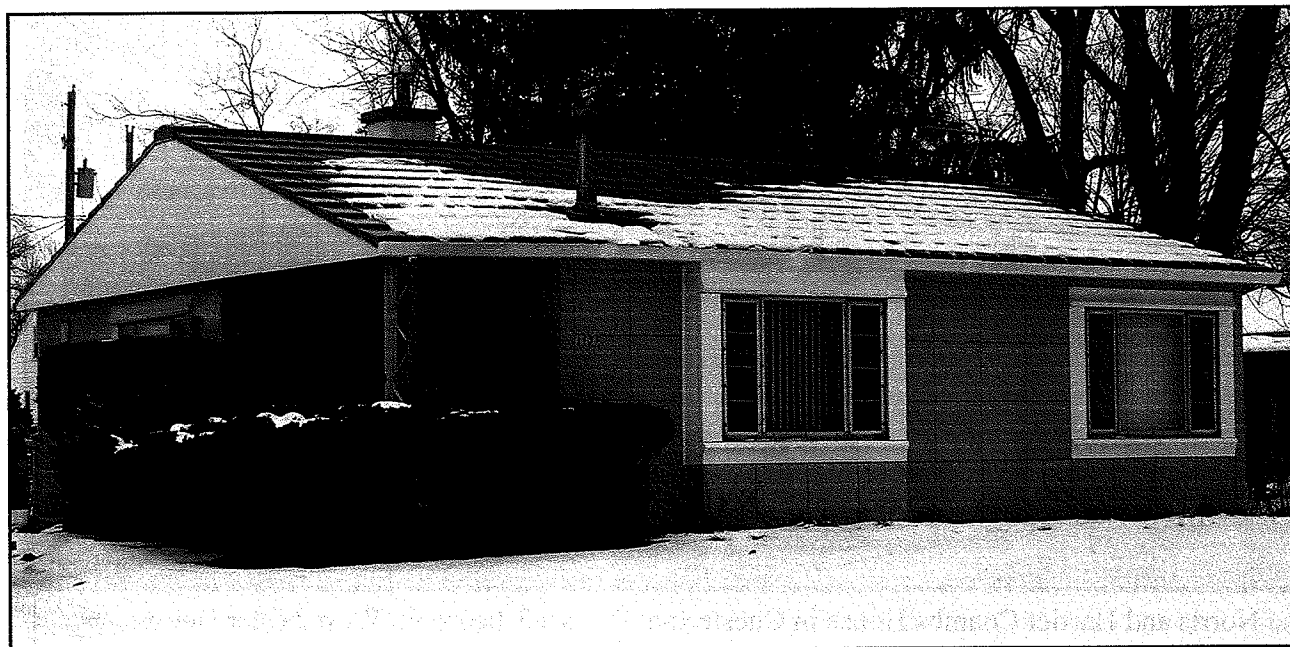
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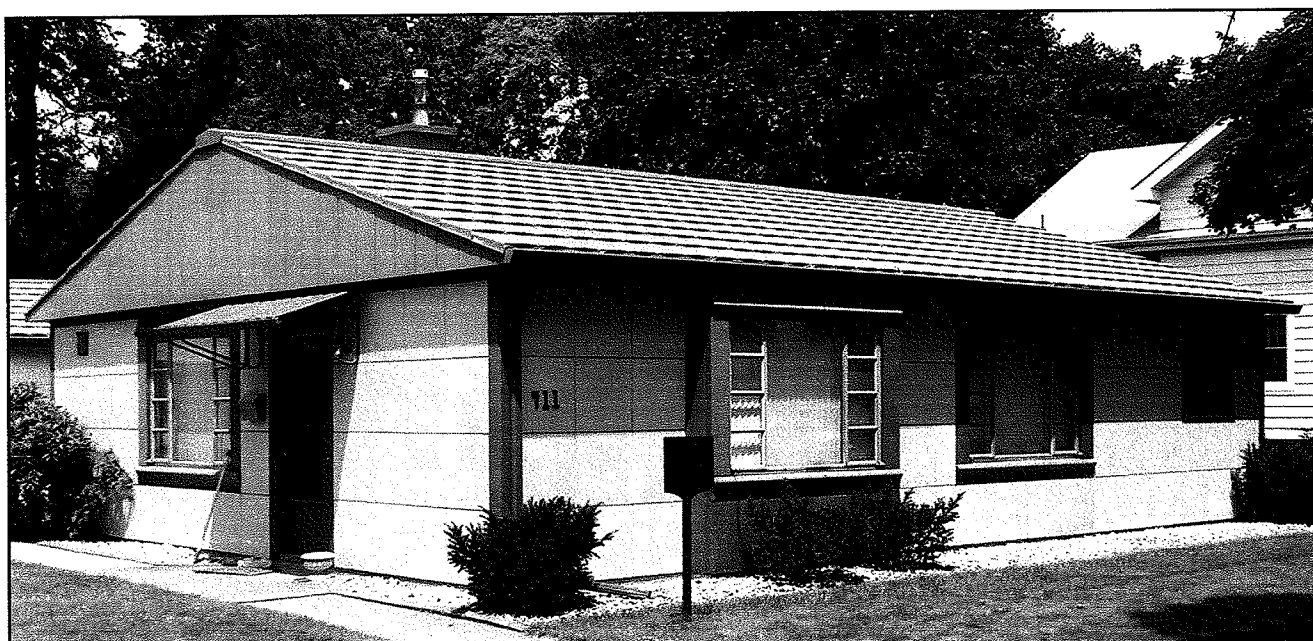
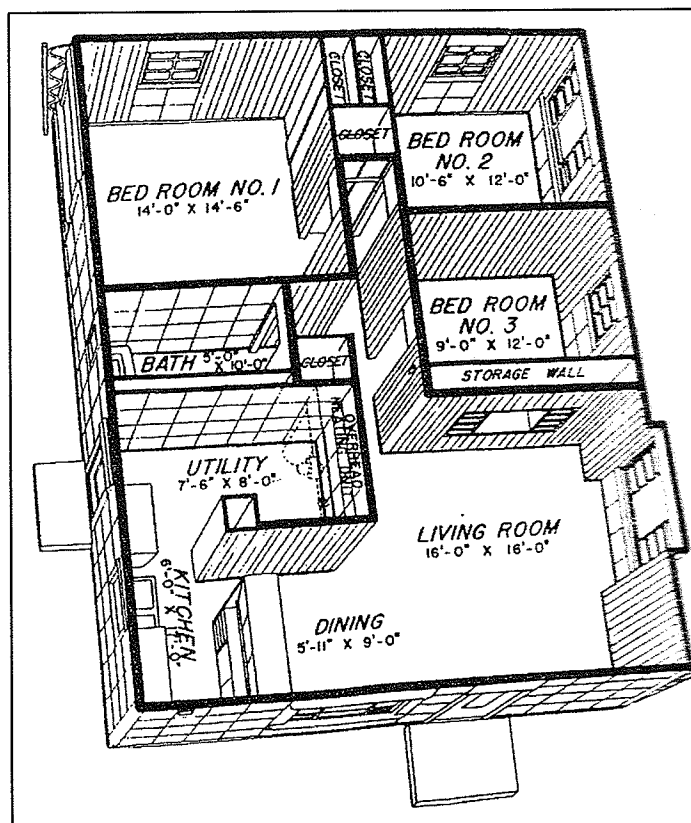


Floor plan, 2-bedroom Westchester Deluxe model (Fetters, pg. 70).

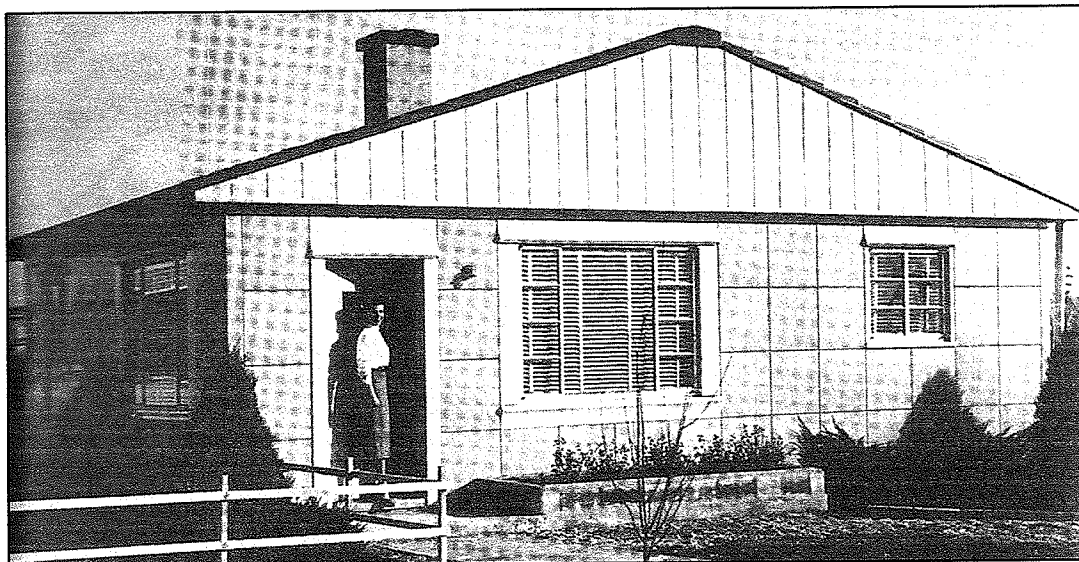


2-bedroom Westchester Deluxe model, Fort Wayne, IN (photo by Jill Downs).

Floor plan, 3-bedroom Westchester Deluxe model (Fetters, pg. 70).



The Norris and Harriet Coombs House in Chesterton, IN, is a 3-bedroom Westchester Deluxe model (photo by Chris Baas).



Lustron Newport model (Fetters, pg. 72).



# Lustron Houses Identified in Indiana

| ID | CITY                       | ADDRESS  | SERIAL<br>NUMBER | MODEL   | LUSTRON<br>REGISTRY | THE LUSTRON<br>HOME | FETTERS | HLFI |
|----|----------------------------|--|------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| 1  | Albany                     | 925 E. State                                   |                  | 03      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 2  | Anderson                   | 915 Dresser Dr.                                |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         | X    |
| 3  | Anderson                   | 913 W. Vineyard                                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 4  | Anderson                   | 1729 W. 11th St.                               |                  | unknown | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 5  | Angola                     | 314 E. Gilmore                                 | 1288             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 6  | Auburn                     | 707 S. Ohio St.                                | 1787             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 7  | Auburn                     | 909 N. Van Buren St.                           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 8  | Beech Grove (Indianapolis) | 210 S. 10th St.                                | 898              | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 9  | Beverly Shores             | 1 East State Park Rd.                          | 951              | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 10 | Beverly Shores             | 104 Lake Front Dr.                             |                  | unknown | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 11 | Beverly Shores             | 303 Lake Front Dr.                             | 1707             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 12 | Beverly Shores             | 729 Lake Front Dr.                             |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 13 | Beverly Shores             | 800 E. Lake Front Dr.                          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 14 | Beverly Shores             | Lake Front Dr. @ Windsor/350<br>Fairwater Ave. | 2263             | 03      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 15 | Beverly Shores             | (104?) State Park Rd.                          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 16 | Bloomington                | 400 S. Highland                                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 17 | Bloomington                | 402 S. Highland                                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 18 | Bloomington                | 1317 E. Hunter Ave.                            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 19 | Bloomington                | 1040 E. Maxwell Ln.                            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 20 | Bloomington                | 1901 E. Maxwell Ln.                            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 21 | Bloomington                | 309 S. Mitchell                                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 22 | Bloomington                | 300 S. Smith Rd.                               |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 23 | Brazil                     | E. US 40                                       |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 24 | Brazil                     | 2241 W. SR 340                                 |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 25 | Brownstown                 | 115 E. Commerce                                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 26 | Burney                     | 748 City Rd., 850 W                            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 27 | Cambridge City (Richmond)  | 63 US 40 & SR 1                                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 28 | Cedar Lake                 | 7229 Constitution                              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 29 | Chesterton                 | 411 Bowser                                     | 2329             | 03      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 30 | Chesterton                 | Stephen St.                                    |                  | unknown | X                   | X                   |         | X    |
| 31 | Chesterton                 | 739 Timber Court                               |                  | 03      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 32 | Columbia City              | 2857 E. Muncie Rd.                             | 849              | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 33 | Columbus                   | 1811 Laurel Dr.                                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 34 | Columbus                   | 3121 National Road                             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 35 | Columbus                   | 2121 Pennsylvania Ave.                         |                  | unknown |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 36 | Columbus                   | 3301 McCollough Ln.                            |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |

# Lustron Houses Identified in Indiana

| ID | CITY                    | ADDRESS                    | SERIAL<br>NUMBER | MODEL   | LUSTRON<br>REGISTRY | THE LUSTRON<br>HOME | FETTERS | HLFI |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| 37 | Columbus                | 3337 Westnedge Dr.         |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 38 | Columbus                | 3236 Central Ave.          |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 39 | Crown Point             | 10607 Lane St.             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   |         |      |
| 40 | Danville (Indianapolis) | 49 Maple St.               |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 41 | Darmstadt (Evansville)  |                            |                  | unknown | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 42 | Elkhart                 | 222 S. West Blvd.          | 1007             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 43 | Elwood                  | 1625 N. D Street           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   |         |      |
| 44 | Elwood                  |                            |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         |      |
| 45 | Elwood                  |                            |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         |      |
| 46 | Evansville              | 1419 Brookside Dr.         |                  | 03      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 47 | Evansville              | 1423 Brookside Dr.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 48 | Evansville              | 1619 Brookside Dr.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 49 | Evansville              | 6118 Hogue Rd.             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 50 | Evansville              | 418 Kelsey Ave.            | 2206             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 51 | Evansville              | 2520 Knob Hill Dr.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 52 | Evansville              | 5925 Lakeland Ave.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 53 | Evansville              | 6001 Lakeland Ave.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 54 | Evansville              | 3001 Lincoln Ave.          |                  | unknown |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 55 | Evansville              | 3011 Lincoln Ave.          | 2078             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 56 | Evansville              | 5821 Madison Ave.          | 1581             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 57 | Evansville              | 2650 W. Maryland St.       | 2365             | 03      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 58 | Evansville              | 3617 New Harmony Rd.       |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 59 | Evansville              | 703 Sonntag Ave.           |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 60 | Evansville              | 723 Sonntag Ave.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 61 | Evansville              | 763 Sonntag Ave.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 62 | Evansville              | 3918 Upper Mt. Vernon Rd.  |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 63 | Evansville              | 3918 Upper New Harmony Rd. |                  | unknown |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 64 | Fort Wayne              | 316 W. Fleming Ave.        |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 65 | Fort Wayne              | 1928 Glenwood Ave.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 66 | Fort Wayne              | 415 W. Maple Grove Ave.    |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 67 | Fort Wayne              | 2510 Oakridge Rd.          | 1723             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 68 | Fort Wayne              | 3214 Parnell Ave.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 69 | Fort Wayne              | 1133 Somerset Ln.          | 1721             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 70 | Fort Wayne              | 4105 Webster St.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 71 | Gary                    | Glen Park area             |                  | unknown | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 72 | Gary                    | 9317 Lake Shore Dr.        |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 73 | Greendale               | 82 Cook Ave.               |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |

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|-----|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| 74  | Greendale                 | 86 Cook Ave.               |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 75  | Greendale                 | 230 Cook Ave.              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 76  | Greendale                 | 226 Parkside               |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 77  | Greendale                 | 863 Sunset Ln.             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 78  | Greenfield (Indianapolis) | 720 N. East St.            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 79  | Greenfield (Indianapolis) | 737 S. State St.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 80  | Greenwood                 | 1159 N. Bluff Rd.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 81  | Greenwood                 | 8081 W. Crawfordsville Rd. |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 82  | Hammond                   | 1409 Amy Ct.               |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 83  | Hammond                   | 1511 Caroline              |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 84  | Hammond                   | 1530 Davis St.             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 85  | Hammond                   | 7423 Woodmar Ave.          | 1799             | 02      | X                   | X                   |         | X    |
| 86  | Hammond                   | 2047 E. 169th St.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 87  | Hammond                   | 2121 E. 169th St.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 88  | Hanover                   | 104 Crowe St.              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 89  | Indianapolis              | 6212 S. Acton Rd.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 90  | Indianapolis              | 2019 E. Broad Ripple Ave.  |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         |      |
| 91  | Indianapolis              | 2023 E. Broad Ripple Ave.  |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         |      |
| 92  | Indianapolis              | 6452 N. Broadway           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 93  | Indianapolis              | 3101 Campbell              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 94  | Indianapolis              | 6212 N. Central            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 95  | Indianapolis              | 6321 N. Central            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 96  | Indianapolis              | 6435 N. Central            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 97  | Indianapolis              | 6466 N. Central            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 98  | Indianapolis              | 8081 W. Crawfordsville Rd. |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 99  | Indianapolis              | 3646 N. Denny              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 100 | Indianapolis              | 3920 Denwood               |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 101 | Indianapolis              | 3623 Gladstone             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 102 | Indianapolis              | 1029 Hawthorne Ln.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 103 | Indianapolis              | 5636 N. Indianola          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 104 | Indianapolis              | 1908 E. Kessler N. Dr.     |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 105 | Indianapolis              | 1728 Leland Ave.           | 1528             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 106 | Indianapolis              | 6435 Riverview Dr.         |                  | 02      |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 107 | Indianapolis              | 6546 Paradise Ln.          |                  | 02      |                     | X                   |         |      |
| 108 | Indianapolis              | 5340 E. St. Joseph St.     |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 109 | Indianapolis              | 5402 S. Shelby             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 110 | Indianapolis              | 3825 N. Sherman Dr.        |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |

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|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| 111 | Indianapolis             | 3819 E. 42nd St.            | 1744             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 112 | Indianapolis             | 2001 E. 62nd St.            |                  | 02      |                     |                     | X       |      |
| 113 | Indianapolis             | 3821 E. 42nd St.            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 114 | Kentland                 | 315 Ray St.                 |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 115 | Lafayette                |                             |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 116 | LaPorte                  | 2400 S. Monroe              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 117 | Lawrenceburg             | 504 Willow St. (Rising Sun) |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 118 | Lebanon                  | 1005 N. East St.            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 119 | Lebanon                  | 1111 N. Lebanon St.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 120 | Madison                  | 1445 Michigan Rd.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 121 | Marion                   | 3501 S. Galletin            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 122 | Marion                   | 1320 N. Wabash              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 123 | Marion                   | 4601 S. Washington          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 124 | Marion                   | 909 W. Sixth St.            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 125 | Marion                   | 318 E. Seventh St.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 126 | Michigan City            | 222 N. Carroll Ave.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 127 | Michigan City            | 115 DeWolfe St.             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 128 | Michigan City            | 114 Stimson Ct.             |                  | 023     | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 129 | Milan                    | 813 Warn St.                |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 130 | Mishawaka                | 3418 Mishawaka Ave.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 131 | Morocco                  | 306 E. College St.          | 1277             | 02      | X                   | X                   |         |      |
| 132 | Mount Vernon             |                             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   |         |      |
| 133 | Muncie                   | 3108 Amherst Rd.            |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 134 | Muncie                   | 3116 Amherst Rd.            |                  | 02      |                     |                     | X       |      |
| 135 | Muncie                   | 3004 W. Devon Rd.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 136 | Muncie                   | 3109 W. Devon Rd.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 137 | Muncie                   | 5100 Everett Rd.            | 1373             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 138 | Muncie                   | 1627 S. Mulberry St.        | 1087             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 139 | Newburgh                 | 5655 Frame Rd.              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 140 | Oaklandon (Indianapolis) | 6546 N. Olvay St.           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 141 | Oaklandon (Indianapolis) | 6546 Paradise Ln.           |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 142 | Oldenburg                | 2020 S. SR 229              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 143 | Osgood                   |                             |                  | unknown | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 144 | Peru                     | 431 N. Broadway             |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 145 | Peru                     | 500 N. Broadway             |                  | 02      |                     | X                   | X       | X    |
| 146 | Porter                   | 419 Franklin St.            | 1551             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 147 | Porter                   | ???? Stephens St.           | 1707             | unknown |                     |                     |         | X    |



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|-----|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| 148 | Redkey                  | 203 N. Spencer      | 2235             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 149 | Remington               | 108 N. Indiana Ave. | 1826             | 03      | X                   |                     | X       |      |
| 150 | Remington               | 114 N. Indiana Ave. |                  | 03      |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 151 | Richmond                | 3224 Avon Ln.       |                  | 02      |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 152 | Richmond                | 3228 E. Avon Ln.    |                  | 02      | X                   |                     | X       |      |
| 153 | Richmond                | 3240 Berwyn Ln.     |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   |         | X    |
| 154 | Richmond                | 1624 Central Dr.    |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   |         | X    |
| 155 | Richmond                | 168 SW 13th St.     | 1896             | 03      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 156 | Richmond                | 200 S. 34th St.     | 1429             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 157 | Rising Sun              | 504 Willow St.      |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 158 | Schererville            | 1319 US 30 West     |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 159 | Seymour                 | 691 Rosemary Ct.    |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 160 | Shirkieville            | SR 150              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 161 | South Bend              | 1211 Black Oak      |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 162 | South Bend              | 303 N. Ironwood     | 1564             | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 163 | South Bend              | 1920 Kessler Blvd.  |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 164 | South Bend              | 3418 Mishawaka Ave. |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         |      |
| 165 | South Bend              | 2131 N. Olive St.   |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 166 | South Bend              | 2417 Samson         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 167 | Speedway (Indianapolis) | 5075 W. 11th St.    |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 168 | Speedway (Indianapolis) | 5070 W. 11th St.    |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 169 | Straughn                | 5151 Maple          |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         |      |
| 170 | Straughn                | 5151 E. Walnut St.  |                  | 02      | X                   |                     | X       | X    |
| 171 | Terre Haute             | 827 S. Center St.   |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 172 | Terre Haute             | 204 McKinley        |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 173 | Terre Haute             | 106 Monterrey       |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         | X    |
| 174 | Terre Haute             | 3318 Oak Ave.       |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 175 | Terre Haute             | 650 Oak             |                  | 02      |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 176 | Terre Haute             | 850 Oak Dr.         |                  | 02      | X                   |                     | X       |      |
| 177 | Terre Haute             | 3105 Wabash St.     |                  | 02      | X                   |                     | X       |      |
| 178 | Terre Haute             | 3313 Wabash St.     |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 179 | Terre Haute             | ??? Margaret        |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 180 | Terre Haute, West       | 6351 W. Illiana Dr. |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 181 | Tipton                  | 308 N. Independence |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       |      |
| 182 | Valparaiso              | 106 Hickory St.     |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 183 | Versailles              |                     |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   |         |      |
| 184 | Versailles              | 114 E. 1st St.      |                  | 02      |                     | X                   |         | X    |

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|-----|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| 185 | Wabash                   | 41 Ross St.               | 1255             | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 186 | Wabash                   | 555 N. Wabash St.         |                  | 02      |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 187 | Waterloo                 |                           |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   |         |      |
| 188 | Westfield (Indianapolis) | 327 N. Union St.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 189 | Westfield (Indianapolis) | 1029 Hawthorne Ln.        |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 190 | Westfield (Indianapolis) | 5340 E. St. Joseph St.    |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 191 | Westfield (Indianapolis) | 2019 E. Broad Ripple Ave. |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 192 | Westfield (Indianapolis) | 1908 Kessler Blvd. E. Dr. |                  | 02      |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 193 | Whiting                  | 1511 Caroline             |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 194 | Winchester               | 905 Short St.             |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         |      |
| 195 |                          |                           |                  |         |                     |                     |         |      |
| 196 | <b>DEMOLISHED</b>        |                           |                  |         |                     |                     |         |      |
| 197 | Beverly Shores           | 104 Lake Front Dr.        |                  | unknown |                     |                     |         | X    |
| 198 | Cedar Lake               | 14822 Wicker Ave. (US 41) |                  | 02      | X                   |                     |         | X    |
| 199 | Evansville               | 1158 Lincoln Ave.         |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 200 | Miller's Beach (Gary)    | 9317 Lake Shore Dr.       |                  | unknown |                     | X                   |         | X    |
| 201 | Indianapolis             | 3880 W. 92nd St.          |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 202 | Ossian                   | 8577 N. SR 1              |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 203 |                          |                           |                  |         |                     |                     |         |      |
| 204 | <b>DISASSEMBLED</b>      |                           |                  |         |                     |                     |         |      |
| 205 | Hanover                  | 104 Crowe St.             |                  | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |
| 206 | Fort Wayne               | 4127 Rosewood Dr.         | 835              | 02      | X                   | X                   | X       | X    |

Sources: Lustron Registry, <http://www.lustronregistry.org> (accessed 9/26/08); The Lustron Home, <http://www.lustronpreservation.org/lounge/locator/lustron-locator> (accessed 11/5/08); Thomas T. Fellers, *The Lustron Home: The History of a Postwar Prefabricated Housing Experiment* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2002), 163, 143; and Lustron Survey files, *Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (state headquarters), 2004-2005, Indianapolis, IN.*



